



The County Lines

The Official Newsletter for Fayette County Employees

In Memory of

County Commissioner A.G. "Van" VanLandingham passed away at his home on December 2, after a 2 ½ year battle with cancer. He was 69 years old.

Though he was able to live with "business as usual" during most of his illness, in his final months Van struggled but continued to attend to his job as a Commissioner. When he could no longer drive, family members brought him into his office so that he could return phone calls, catch up on mail and talk with constituents and staff. He remarkably continued to attend and be an active participant in County Commission meetings, even when others knew he was not well.

Commissioner VanLandingham was well known in our community for his work with the Kiwanis Club and the Masonic Lodge. Those who knew him will remember his desire to help others and to improve the lives of those around him, both publicly and privately. Van was a dedicated family man who enjoyed fishing, hunting, wood-working and farming. He would often be seen around the county with

some of his favorite pals, two of his small granddaughters. In fact, in the final months of his illness, they were often his motivation for getting out of the house.

During the entire time he was ill, Van never complained – not once. Instead, he only talked of getting better, trying new treatments and moving forward. He made a point of reaching out to other cancer patients and their family members with words of support and encouragement. At the point in time when he realized he may not be able to beat the cancer, he told one staff member that the past two years had been the best years of his life and that he would wish everyone could have an opportunity to have such a time because everything becomes "special" and everyday events become "precious moments" with family and friends. His attitude, his appreciation for life, and his faith inspired those around him everyday.

On hearing of his death, the Board of Commissioners issued a public statement, which said in part, "Our community has lost a dedicated leader and a fine citizen.



It has been an extreme honor and a privilege to have known A.G. and to serve with him on the County Commission. . . . He was a man of strong faith who lived his life true to his convictions and devoted to his beloved family. Fayette County is a better place because of him. We are better people because we have known him. We will miss him."

Commissioner VanLandingham was first elected in 2000 and again in 2004. A special election will be held on March to fill the remainder of his term, which expires December 31, 2008. The last County Commissioner to die while in office was Loy D. Farr in 1965.

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Letter from the Commission Chairman

A New Year ... Already ?

It seems like just a short time ago we were reeling from the shock of the events of September 11. Shortly before that we were preparing for the turn of the century and the unknowns of the Y2K threat. Even earlier, our community prepared for and awaited the arrival of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Each of us can think further back to a lifetime of notable events, some of which are still so fresh in our minds it seems as though they occurred just a short while ago.

But here we all are already six years into the New Millennium awaiting whatever the future holds for us -- as individuals, as a community, and as a nation. While there is no way to prepare for the unknown, we can use the experiences and knowledge we have amassed over a lifetime to give us some level of comfort about how we will deal with events in the future, both known and unknown.

As county government officials and employees, we have an enormous amount of expertise and many, many

years of experience among us all that will enable us to move forward into 2006 with confidence and excitement about how we can each help Fayette County maintain its reputation as the Southern Crescent's premier community.

Every person who works to serve the citizens of Fayette County has a special role and an opportunity each day to prove that we are and can remain the best county government in Georgia. You, our employees, are in large part responsible for what our public thinks of the Fayette County Government. It is you who have made us the model for other counties. It is you who have set and met the highest of standards for a local government. It is you who will continue to develop and administer policies, programs, and practices that keep us on the cutting edge of government service delivery.

In the long term future it will become more and more difficult for us to provide the level of service to which our citizens have become accustomed. We must work tirelessly to provide these services at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer as the cost of doing business rises. The challenges for us in the short

term should concern us all as well. Many in our community are currently experiencing economic distress from salary cuts, lost benefits, and even job loss and it will take some time for these citizens to recover. These are the people we serve. These are the taxpayers who pay our salaries and provide the benefits we enjoy. As another year begins, let us challenge ourselves each day to continue serving our public with fiscal responsibility, sound judgment, respect, and a "can do" attitude. As employees you are a resourceful, dedicated group. You are capable of achieving great things. We look forward to seeing even greater success in our organization during 2006.

The County Commissioners join in wishing each of you all the best in the new year as we work together to meet and conquer the many challenges before us. We are thankful for the partnership we share with you in ensuring that Fayette County remains *the* community . . . "Where Quality Is A Lifestyle".

Greg Dunn, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

P.S. This letter sounds so

serious -- please don't forget to have some fun, too! I've studied all our policies, procedures, and ordinances and can't find anything which prohibits it, so I guess it's OK !!!

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Department News

Board of Elections and Voter Registration

In 2006 we will hold several county-wide elections. We anticipate holding a Special Election on March 21 for the office of County Commission, Post 1. Voting will be county-wide but candidates must reside within the Post 1 geographical area to qualify to run for this post. Advance voting will be the week of March 13 – 17. If there is a runoff, it will be held on April 18, with Advance voting the week of April 10 – 14. Primaries will be held on July 18, with runoffs on August 8. The General Election will be November 7, with a runoff on December 5, if one is needed.

Permits and Inspections

As the size and complexity of new homes has increased, so have our permit fees. Effective January 1st building permit fees will be increased to \$.21 per square foot. Also, additional requirements will be made of builders in order to accumulate information on new construction that will aid us and homeowners in the future.

Engineering Department

One of the largest challenges facing the Engineering Department is stormwater management. Mandates stemming from the Federal Clean Water Act and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District are impacting the Department and County in multiple ways. Some of the changes taking place as part of Fayette County's Stormwater Management Program include the following.

1. Revisions to existing regulations to establish new, stricter, performance criteria.
2. Implementation of new regulations to address water quality concerns associated with illicit discharges to receiving waters and post-development stormwater management.
3. New requirements for soil erosion and sedimentation control plan preparation, permitting, field inspection, and inspector training.
4. Employee training requirements for County field personnel.
5. Implementation of a comprehensive Pollution

Prevention Plan and Operation & Maintenance program for the County.

6. Inventory, mapping, and assessment of existing stormwater management structures within the County.

Development of public education, involvement and outreach programs.

Needless to say, the County's Stormwater Management Program is reshaping the day-to-day operations within the Engineering Department and will likely, if it hasn't already, have impacts on daily operations for several other Departments within the County.

Tax Commissioner Office

Tax bills were mailed out early this year for the first time in forever. November 15 is actually the due date set by the county but the last year we made that deadline was 1988. The bills were mailed out September 1 and were due November 15. You are now able to file for homestead exemption throughout the years. You just have to have a recorded warranty deed to file but must have filed before March 1 of the following year to have the

exemption apply to that tax year.

Library

The Library's Annual Christmas Concert was a big event. Gregory Langston Baker was the pianist and soloists were Denise Kelly, Valesia Robinson, and Angel Walker. The violinist was Satyajit Karamakar and the saxophone, flute, and clarinet were played by Heriberto Payan."

The County Lines.

The County Lines has changed. This new format is limited to eight pages. The newsletter will include articles from the Commissioners and/or the County Administrator, Human Resources, and spotlights on projects and departments. The newsletter will continue to have space for milestones in employee's lives; marriages, births, etc.

We welcome suggestions and information. The goal is to have someone as the reporter for each department.

The Editor



Human Resources

HOLIDAY January 16, 2006

MONTHLY RETIREMENT MEETINGS

Retirement Meetings will be conducted on the third Tuesday of each month this quarter. Employees currently enrolled in the program have the opportunity to meet with the Hartford representative of their choosing. The meetings are conducted between 1 and 5 pm in the Human Resources Dept. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT BY CALLING EXT. 5242.

January 17th

February 21st

March 21st

April 18th

50+SOCIAL SECURITY FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

The annual 50+ Social Security Financial Workshop will be held February 23rd in suite 210 at the Fayette County complex at 2:00pm. A representative from the Social Security Administration will be here to present the workshop. You are invited to attend. Please register for this workshop by using code HR103.

BENERGY WEBSITE

Benergy keeps you informed and in touch. This benefits website puts a vast source of news and information about your benefits in your hands. Just visit our website at

www.mybenergy.com. The user name is "fayettecounty" and the password is "benefits".

TRAINING

Policy Orientation

1/4/06

MS Outlook

1/26/06

Customer Service

1/12/06

Policy Orientation

2/1/06

Access II

2/7/06

Defensive Driving

2/9/06

Commercial Driving

2/16/06

Benefit Orientation

2/21/06

Preventing Back Injury
2/23/06

Policy Orientation

3/1/06

Word II

3/21/06

TRAINING CALENDAR

To view the new training events calendar you can

access training HR calendar utilizing the following steps:

In MS Outlook access (click on) "Calendar."

Using the mouse, left click on "Folder List" (the icon of a folder, usually in the left bottom corner of the screen).

Using the scroll bar, under

"All Folders" (located at the left side of the screen), scroll down to and click on "All Public Folders."

Under "All Public Folders" click on the calendar "Training HR."

TRAINING CANCELLATION POLICY

Computer training cancellations must be received "in writing" no later than 15 working days prior to the date of the scheduled training. Failure to do so **WILL** result in a \$100.00 (or applicable fee) cancellation fee. This fee will be imposed for no shows and in excess of 15 minutes tardy.

WE ALWAYS NEED YOUR INPUT

To ensure quality, applicable training is provided, your input and suggestions are important. Human Resources is in the process of scheduling general and technology (computer) training for the Spring classes. Please send your approved, specific training request via e-mail to Joyce-P or you may send your request in writing to Human Resources.

BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT

April 17 – April 28

Details to be announced

BCBS COVERAGE AWAY FROM HOME

All BlueChoice Healthcare Plan members have access to medical care while traveling outside of Georgia.

Short Trips:

If a member needs care while away from home for fewer than 90 consecutive days, he/she simply needs to follow these easy steps:

-Always carry his/her current member ID card for easy reference and access to service.

-In an emergency, go directly to the nearest hospital.

-Call his/her PCP or BCBSHP for prior authorization and/or pre-certifications, if necessary.

To find names and addresses of nearby doctors, you can visit the BCBS online provider directory at www.bcbsga.com or call BlueCard Access at 1-800-810-BLUE. When you arrive at the participating doctor's office or hospital, simply present your ID card.

HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES FOR FAMILY STATUS CHANGES

This is an important reminder that when there is a change in status, such as birth of baby, marriage, divorce, death, or loss of a job (spouse), you must notify Human Resources - within 30 days of the event or a change cannot be made to your Health Insurance until the next open enrollment period. When a divorce takes place, the ex-spouse must be removed from insurance immediately.



diately upon finalization of papers.

SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT EXIT INTERVIEW

When an employee separates employment with Fayette County, an exit interview is required. You can contact Tara at 770-460-5730 ext. 5117 in Human Resources to set up an exit interview. Also remember to bring Insurance cards and County ID cards to the exit interview. A \$5.00 fee is assessed for ID Cards not returned when separating employment.

ADDRESS/NAME CHANGE

When you have an address/name change, please complete a medical enrollment change form. Please make sure to sign the enrollment change form at the bottom. For a name change, the proper documentation which is either a divorce decree or a marriage license must be forwarded to Human Resources before it can be processed.

MARCH OF DIMES WALK AMERICA

Saturday, April 22, 2006, Shakerag Knoll, Peachtree City. If you have been touched by the March of Dimes and are willing to be an Ambassador to assist with the campaign, please contact Human Resources

2006 SERVICE AWARDS

5 Year Awardees

Robert Barton
Dwayne Buckner
Danielle David

Somer Davis
Troy Duffey
Delores Harrison
Jamie Hart
Shane Head
Bryan Hergesell
Stephen Hood
Kristie King
Frank Line
Brenda Mann
Deanna Massengale
Rex McDonald
Larry McNorton
Angela Millen
Peter Pfeifer
Walter Ponder
Jason Ponzio
Mark Pullium
Dixie Raisor
Theresa Riner
Timothy Routon
Leo Rowan
Robert Ruppenthal
James Russell
Joseph Scarborough
Karen Semon
Daniel Slaughter
James Smith
Sheila Studdard

10 Year Awardees

Leo Candelaria
Holly Chambers
Jimmie Gunn
Ronald Hardy
Lee Hearn
Charles Hogan
James Karol
James Massey
Harold Mathis
Jeffrey Mayo

Sabrina Miller
Debra Orr
Raymond Parson
Russell Prince
Patrick Ryckley
Randal Sisk
Jeremy Smith
Almon Strickland
Loy Turner
Eugenia West
Jimmy White
Earl Williams

15 Year Awardees

Kathleen Cox
Cathy Crenshaw
Donna Hilton
Billy Martin
Belinda McCastle
Ivory McCollum
David Peace

20 Year Awardees

Diane Allbritton
Lenelle Coker
Steven Coker
Pamela Gravitt
Betty Harris
Tim Jones
Douglas Morris
Kaye Nolan
Eugene Richardson
David Scarbrough
Richard Twohig
Steven Ventura

25 Year Awardee

James Adams
Sammy Champion
Walter Huddleston
Michael Pruitt

Olivia Seidel
Cynthia Thompson

30 Years Awardee

Richard Hannah

40 Year Awardee

Miriam Crews

IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO REMEMBER:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Customer Service

1-800-441-2273

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Hospital Pre-Certification

1-800-722-6614

Blue Choice On Call

1-888-724-2583

Employee Assistance

Sandra Harmon

770-304-9885

AFLAC Brad Hulsey

770-405-3239

Colonial Life & Accident Anita Horton 770-592-7356

Guardian (Life & Disability)

Customer Service

1-800-981-2574

Hartford Bruce Farman

770-631-4435

Customer Service

1-800-339-4015

Hartford 457 Def. Comp. Customer Service

1-800-528-9009

Hartford 457 Loans

Customer Service

1-800-528-9009



By the Numbers

PHONE STATISTICS

The Stonewall Complex voice mail system recorded 47,595 calls in July, 49,348 calls in August, 53,347 calls in September, 52,613 calls in October and 46,713 calls in November.

The voice mail system located at McDonough Road recorded 19,042 calls in July, 19,012 calls in August, 17,255 calls in September, 17,136 calls in October and 14,429 calls in November.

The automated Permits and Inspections Request line recorded 679 calls in July, 751 calls in August, 853 calls in September, 792 calls in October and 840 calls in November.

The burn ban was lifted October 1st. The automated Burn Permit Request line recorded 2,461 calls in October and 1,963 calls in November.

Projects:

Kenwood Park

The park is under construction by the Road Department. The stormwater piping is installed for the phase I walking trail. The entrance will be on Highway 279 and the entrance will include turning lanes.

Kelly Park

This park is on Kelly Drive in Peachtree City and is the old water treatment and distribution shop site. This park will have a walking track and an overlook on Flat Creek. The park has access to Peachtree City's golf cart system.

SPLOST

The Finance department has met with the Cities about the funds that will be collected for the road projects with the sales tax.

The SPLOST projects include the Fayetteville By Pass and twenty intersection improvements. The

Road Department does thirty miles of resurfacing and will do another twenty miles with SPLOST.

Senior Citizens Center

The Commissioners authorized completion of the design. The bidding of the project will be this Spring. The new center will be one the southeast corner of the Judicial Center site. The Senior Center will be about 22,000 square feet.

Road Work

The repair to Westbridge is being bid, with a bid date of January 19, 2006.

The Road Department is cleaning catch basins, which improve stormwater flows and scraping and gravelling the 60 plus miles of dirt roads in the County.

They finished the section of Quarter's Road and Snead Road.

New Employees:

Board of Elections and Voter Registration

We would like to welcome two new employees to our office. **April Crosby** is our new full-time Elections Office Clerk and **Kathy Browning** is our new part-time Elections Clerk. April and her husband Andy have a son, Josh, who attends Whitewater High School and a daughter, Abby, who attends East Fayette Elementary. Kathy has been a poll worker for several years and some people may remember her as a former Weight Watchers' Leader.

The **Fire Department** continues to grow. We would like to welcome **Ryan Sanders, Peter Schandolph, Daniel Carr** and **Holly Joyner** to the department. They will start fire recruit class in January.

The **Water System** would like to welcome **Rhonda Merino** as Communication Operator, **Pat Lovett**, as Water Plant Operator, **Howard Durham**, as Utility Locator, and **Darrell Smith**, as Water Plant Maintenance.



The **Engineering Department** welcomes **Jeremy Greenberg**, a landscape architect with several years work experience at DeKalb County.

The Fayette County Parks & Recreation Department welcomes our newest Athletic Coordinator, **Clay Childers**. Clay is an avid Alabama fan, attended Kennesaw State College and completed his internship in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Starting in September, he gained experience dealing with our adult leagues.

Marque Rivera joined Permits and Inspections as a part-timer this year. Besides her job well done in the field, she has also brought the season spirit to the office - Marque decorated the office for us this year!

Sergio Acevedo joined **Central Support Services** in July as a part-time Accounting Technician responsible for inventory. He is currently attending college. **Nikki Vrana**, our Senior Accounting Technician, came on board in August. She moved here, with her husband and 12 year old

son from Tennessee where she worked for the school system. In September **Wendy Brown** was hired on as an Accounting Technician. She had been working as a bookkeeper for the Ole Mill Steak House. She is currently attending Griffin Tech, working towards getting her Associate Degree in Accounting. On the same day that Wendy was hired, **Rikki Martin** began work as the Secretary for the CSS Division. Rikki is a former Pike County resident who taught Pre-K for the Stepping Stones Education Therapy Center in Griffin.

Tax Commissioner's Office

Two new employees have started working for Car Tags. **Janet Pace** and **Teresa Lee** began working this fall. It seems some retired employees must have not gotten enough of this place because **Patsy Coker** and **Patsy McElwaney** have come back to work. **Sherri Mask** is taking **Barbara Adams** place who took **Patsy McElwaney's** place. **Patsy McElwaney** is working on the front counter. **Patsy Coker** is

answering the phones and working on the mail in registrations. **Janet Pace** took **Sherri Masks'** place, **Laurie Nichols** is taking **Sharon Stephens'** place and **Kristie King** is taking **Laurie Nichols** place. **Bill Sarver** is just walking around looking confused.

Broderick Arnold is a new county employee. After weathering nearly three years in cold Minneapolis with Northwest Airlines, he is back and working with the Maintenance Department working on county vehicles.

Congratulations

Firefighter/EMT **Jeremy Gossett** recently obtained his Paramedic certification.

Congratulations to FF/EMT **Thomas Strickland** & his wife **Marlana** on the birth of **Nathaniel Allen**. He was born on November 29, 2005 at 15:08. His weight was 8 lbs. and he was 20 inches long.

Bill Cushing has been serving as **Acting Director of Permits and**

Inspections

The **Fayette County Planning and Zoning Departments** have been combined into one department, after many years of being separate departments. The director of the combined department is **Pete Frisina**. Pete is also serving as Director of our Community Development Division.

Jennifer Estrada was promoted to Assistant Water Plant Manager for the Crosstown Water Plant. Jennifer is certified as a Class I Water Plant Operator and has been with the Water System for 5 years

Farewell:

We wish **Aaron Wheeler**, Zoning Administrator, success in his new business.

GET WELL

We all want to wish **Andy Taylor** a speedy recovery from his motorcycle accident he recently suffered. Andy is a FF/Paramedic at St#5.



Department Spotlight

The Fayette County Water System is under the direction of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners with a Water Committee acting as an advisory committee to the Board. The Water System was started in 1965 with the purchase of the water plant from the developer in Peachtree City and the acquisition of the well system in Tyrone. The System currently serves 27,000 customers and can produce 19.5 million gallons of water a day from the Cross-town Water Plant and the south Fayette Water

Plant. The Water System provides water service to Tyrone, Peachtree City, Woolsey, parts of Fayetteville and Brooks and part of the unincorporated County. The Water System is also the backup supply for the Fayetteville and Brooks systems.

The Water System operates three lakes that are open to the public. [Lake Kedron](#) in Peachtree City, [Starr's Mill](#) on Highway 85 and [Lake Horton](#) in South Fayette County.

All three are open to fishing. Sailboats, row-

boats and electric motors are allowed in Lake Kedron and Lake Horton. The hours are dawn to dusk. Anyone fishing or boating must comply with all [DNR](#) rules and regulations. Docks and boat ramps are available at Lake Horton and Lake Kedron.

Lake Kedron, located in northern Peachtree City, is a 235-acre reservoir. The park has boat docks, a boat ramp and a tot lot.

Fayette County purchased the historic Starr's Mill in February, 1991. It continues to be used for fishing,

family gatherings and picnics.

Lake Horton has a 40 acre park and offers paved walking trails, boat ramps, fishing, picnic areas, restrooms and drinking fountains.

The largest project planned is the construction of Lake McIntosh. This 650 acre lake will be on Line Creek north of Falcon Field in Peachtree City. The 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers is being requested. The plans and construction, once all permits are issued, will take two years.



Fayette County
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